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Thailand

Agricultural Situation

Update on Soybean Meal Tariff Reduction Proposal

2008

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Report Highlights:

On June 9, Thai feed mill manufacturers met with the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) to continue their push to remove import duties on soybean meal and other feed ingredients. However opposition from the Soybean and Rice Bran Oil Producers Association has caused the MOC to delay its decision until feed manufactures can respond to a list of questions concerning the economic impact of the request.

Includes PSD Changes: No Includes Trade Matrix: No Annual Report Bangkok [TH1] On June 9, Thai feed mill manufacturers met with the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) to continue their push to remove import duties on soybean meal and other feed ingredients. Feed manufacturers are also seeking an increase in government controlled feed prices. During the meeting, the Thai Government submitted a list of questions concerning the economic impact of the request, and was specifically concerned about the affect on retail prices for pork. The Thai Feed Mill Association is expected to respond to the MOC by the end of the month.

The original request by the Thai Feed Mill Association, sought to reduce tariffs for soybean meal and several feed ingredients including Distilled Dried Grains with Soluble (DDGS) due to rising commodity prices and tight government control over feed prices. Under the original request, the current tariff for soybean meal of 4 percent would be reduced to zero. The Association felt that a tariff reduction would help livestock producers cope with rising production costs. However, trade sources reported that the Soybean and Rice Bran Oil Producers Association voiced strong opposition to the MOC as they feared a reduction on the soybean meal tariff would negatively affect local soybean oil refineries. Under pressure from the local Thai soybean industry, the MOC delayed its decision for Cabinet's review.

End of Report.